

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for covering a transport container on a truck,
5 comprising:
 a cover assembly comprising a flexible cover deployable to
 cover the transport container; and
 a gantry assembly comprising:
 a base section fixed with respect to the truck;
10 a movable section liftably disposed with respect to the
 base section and having an upper end fixed to the cover
 assembly; and
 a lift mechanism fixed with respect to the base section
 and operative to lift the movable section and the cover
15 assembly above the transport container on the truck.
2. The covering system of claim 1, wherein the movable section is
telescopically disposed within the base section.
- 20 3. The covering system of claim 1, wherein the movable section
comprises an upper movable section, and further comprising a middle
movable section liftably disposed on the base section, the upper
movable section liftably disposed on the middle movable section.
- 25 4. The covering system of claim 1, wherein the base section
comprises a pair of legs, and the movable section comprises a pair
of legs telescopically disposed within the pair of legs of the base
section.
- 30 5. The covering system of claim 1, further comprising a stop
mechanism disposed between the base section and the movable section
configured to prevent the movable section from removing completely
from the base section.
- 35 6. The covering system of claim 5, wherein:
 the base section comprises a pair of legs, and the movable

section comprises a pair of legs telescopically disposed within the pair of legs of the base section; and

5 the stop mechanism comprises a stop member disposed at an upper end of the legs of the base section and a contact member disposed near and protruding radially from a lower end of the pair of legs of the movable section for abutting contact with the contact member when the movable section extends from the base section.

10 7. The covering system of claim 6, wherein the contact member comprises a pin extending diametrically across each of the legs of the movable member.

15 8. The covering system of claim 6, wherein the stop member comprises a depending annular ring disposed circumferentially within an inner diameter of the legs of the base member.

9. The covering system of claim 1, wherein:

20 the lift mechanism comprises a cylinder member fixed with respect to the base section and a piston member fixed with respect to the movable section; and

extension of the piston member from the cylinder member is operative to extend the movable section from the base section.

25 10. The covering system of claim 9, further comprising a middle movable section liftably disposed on the base section, the movable section comprising an upper movable section liftably disposed on the middle movable section; and

wherein:

30 the lift mechanism comprises a cylinder member fixed with respect to the base section, an upper piston member fixed with respect to the upper movable section, and a mid member between the upper piston member and the cylinder member; and

35 extension of the upper piston member is operative to extend the upper movable section from the middle movable section, and extension of the mid member is operative to

extend the middle movable section from the base section and to continue lifting of the upper movable section.

11. The covering system of claim 1, wherein the lift mechanism
5 comprises a hydraulic piston and cylinder assembly.

12. The covering system of claim 1, wherein the lift mechanism is hydraulically actuated, pneumatically actuated, or electrically actuated.

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13. The covering system of claim 1, wherein the gantry assembly is configured to raise the cover assembly twelve feet above a bed of the truck.

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14. The covering system of claim 1, wherein the cover assembly further includes a winding mechanism operative to wind the flexible cover into a closed position.

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15. The covering system of claim 1, wherein the cover assembly further includes a housing, the flexible cover rollable into a closed position within the housing.

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16. The covering system of claim 1, wherein the cover assembly further includes a fastening device configured to attach the second end of the flexible cover to a rear of the transport container in a deployed position.

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17. The covering system of claim 1, further comprising an alarm assembly operative to provide an alarm if the gantry assembly is in a raised position when the truck begins to move.

18. A method for deploying a cover over a top of a transport container comprising:

providing the covering system of claim 1;

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raising the gantry assembly to a height above the top of the transport container;

deploying the flexible cover of the cover assembly over the top of the transport container;

securing a fastening device of the flexible cover to an attachment point on the truck or transport container;

5 lowering the gantry assembly to a height, wherein the flexible cover is operatively associated with a load within the transport container.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising detaching the
10 fastening device of the flexible cover from the attachment point;

raising the gantry assembly to a height above the top of the transport container;

moving the flexible cover into a closed position within the cover assembly; and

15 lowering the gantry assembly to a height below the top of the transport container.